Establishment of a Halt Station at Vasundhara

1219. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of residents of Vas-undhara Yojana of the U.P. Awas Vikas Parishad in Ghaziabad and other adjoining villages, are being deprived of rail facilities due to absence of a halt/station at Vasundhara;

(b) if so, the action being initiated to establish a proper halt near Sector 2B and 2C, of Vasundhara, adjoining the Mohan Meakins factory;

(c) by when the above station/halt is likely to be established and made functional; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (d) The proposal regarding opening of a halt station at Vasundhara between Sahibabad and Ghaziabad stations was examined but not found commercially and operationally justified.

Rail Projects in T.N. and Bengal

1220. SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned T.N. Bengal Railway Projects will remain a 'Non-starter' appearing in the Hindu of 12th February, 1999; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All new line and Gauge Conversion projects have been prioritised on the basis of their physical progress, operational desirability, national and strategic importance and social desirability. Funds are allotted to these projects according to their relative priority.

Rail accidents due to Defective Tracks

1221. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of accidents took place due to defective tracks, wheel disks and axles;

(b) if so, why the Railways continued to import them from one source only i.e. Romania, after their continued sad experience of getting defective material; and

(c) what has been the loss in terms of time, money and human lives during the last five years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. Railways have been procuring most of the wheel and axles from indigenous sources *viz* Wheel & Axle Plant, Bangalore (Indian Railways) and Durgapur Steel Plant (SAIL) Some of the items, where indigenous capacity is inadequate or not available, the items are being imported from various countries

like Russia, Ukraine, Romania, Poland, etc. A small number of wheels supplied by Romanian firms not clearing one of the tests have been kept aside and not put in service.

(c) The details of loss in terms of time, money and human life during the last five years are as under:

Year	Interruption to Traffic (in hrs)	(Rs. Cost of damages in lakhs)	Number of people killed
1994-95	2060.78	4418.61	87
1995-96	1874.29	4874.77	120
1996-97	1798.79	3460.94	108
1997-98	1717.59	4516.90	147
1998-99	2178.91	4425.54	266
TOTAL	9630.36	21696.76	728

Note : 1998-99 Figures are provisional.

Another A.C. Chair Car in Ratnachal Express

1222. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are aware of the need to attach a second A.C. Chair Car to Ratnachal Express in South Central Railway;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Ratnachal Express is overcrowded;

(c) what steps are proposed to increase the capacity of this train;

(d) whether it is a fact that Railways are enquiring needs of passengers of Vijayawada Division; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (e) An additional A.C. Chair Car has been provided on 2717/ 2718 Ratnachal Express from 01.03.1999. It has been decided to augment the load of the train during the current year depending upon the availability of coaches from Production Units and operational feasibility.

रेलवे की इकाइयों में निर्मित वस्तुएं

1223. **श्री राज मोहिन्दर सिंह** :
श्री कपिल सिब्बल :

क्या **रेल** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि रेलवे के अधीन विभिन्न निर्माण इकाइयों में अनेक वस्तुएं निर्मित की जाती है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इन इकाइयों के नाम और इनके द्वारा निर्मित वस्तुओं का ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या ये इकाइयां फायदे में चलती है;

(घ) यदि हां, तो मार्च, 1998 के अंत तक प्रत्येक निर्माण इकाई में कुल कितना पूंजी निवेश किया गया है; और

(ड) गत वर्षो के दौरान प्रत्येक इकाई द्वारा अर्जित लाभ की वार्षिक औसत राशि कितनी है?